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than the work of Beach, of which, as indicated above, it is a remodeling. It is also twelve years later than the last (the 4th) edition of Dillon's classical work upon the subject, and four or five years later than the small work of Elliott. The preface is dated January 1, 1903, and the cases seem to be pretty fully brought down to 1901,—those reported in 125 Ala., 131 Cal., 111 Ga., 185 Ill., 154 Ind., 176 Mass., 124 Mich., 61 O. S., 197 Pa. St., 71 Vt., and reports of like date being found generally throughout the work. The work has 225 more pages than Beach, and seven additional chapters, which are: Injunction and Certiorari (38); Municipal Departments (41); Damages in Municipal Matters (42); Pleading (43); Evidence (44); Franchises (45); and Civil Service and Veteran's Acts (46). The chapters on Municipal Contracts (18), Public Improvements (27), Local or Special Assessments (28), Streets, Alleys, Wharves (29), Police Powers (30), Taxation (35), Highways (36), and Mandamus and Quo Warranto (37), are very largely re-written. Several chapters have been extended by the addition of new sections, as, for example, the chapters on Ordinances and By-laws (14), has 12 new sections; Express Corporate Powers (15), has 12 new sections; Torts and Crimes (20), has 14 new sections; Fiscal Management (21), has 10 new sections; Municipal Funds (22), has 10 new sections; and Suppression of Nuisances (26), has 12 additional sections. Minor changes have been made in other places, but the work otherwise follows the outline and treatment of the original by Beach, the design of which was to "make a treatise which shall cover the entire field of public company law in all its departments, using the term 'public companies' in its widest modern sense \* \* \* and not to omit the law, as declared in the decided cases or defined by statute, of any sort of public corporation."—from the Federal government as a corporation upon the one hand, to the smallest school district upon the other. In the 46 chapters of the work, the whole subject seems to be pretty thoroughly covered. The index covers 86 pages, and is not so full as one might wish. *Taxing districts*, *drainage districts*, and such titles do not appear in the index, although these quasi-corporations are frequently mentioned, and the rule relating to them given in the text. Even the larger title *quasi-corporations*, has but a single index reference, referring to an insignificant matter in the text. It would seem that a work which purports to, and which does, discuss all kinds of *quasi-corporations*, should have indexed them all under either the specific, or more general title. The typographical part of the work is very well done. Each chapter has an analysis preceding the text. The sections have appropriate headings in bold-faced type, and what is more important, the material seems to have been so worked over as to appear in its proper place.

H. L. WILGUS.

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A CONCISE TREATISE ON CONTRACTS UPON A NEW PLAN. By William T. Hughes, author of *Technology of Law*. Chicago, Callaghan & Co., 1903. Published for the author.

The title page announces; "A work of unification, simplification and expedition." These are large words and are not easily understood. The author's title page would have been more helpful to the reader, if he had observed "simplification." This, however, is a minor matter. Let the book speak for itself.

The "Expletion" is in three parts:

Part I. The rationale; Fundamental Conceptions.

Part II. The elements introduced and discussed

Part III. The Text Index, etc.

Of these parts in their order.

The so-called, "rationale, and fundamental conceptions" (Part I) contains nothing new and little peculiar to contract law. The writer seems to have overlooked the fact that there is a broad breach between agreement and disagreement. While the student is learning the elements of contract law he ought not to be impressed with the idea that the subject is without individuality and practically told that jurisprudence is without a science. While it is true that a study of one branch of the law involves a view into every adjacent field, nevertheless, contracts, torts and crimes ought not to be so blended as to leave in the mind simply a hazy appreciation of each.

In Part II, the author discusses the elements of contract law. In this discussion he has not improved on the works of Pollock and Anson and has not followed their scientific treatment of the subject, as many eminent American writers have done. At this point we do not approve of his "new plan." It is original, but, in our judgment, not helpful to the student or practitioner.

In Part III, the author presents his "Text Index." This is the best part of the book and will be of great value to the practitioner. He must have, however, a large library at his elbow and he alone must be master of its volumes. Students in a law school can not make much use of the book for the reason that they would all want the same volume of reports at the same time.

This book will be of considerable value to lawyers and law writers having access to complete libraries.

JEROME C. KNOWLTON

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THE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION LAWS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. By Albert Martin Kales, Assistant Professor of the Law of Property in Northwestern University. One volume. Pp. xxviii, 281. Callaghan & Co., Chicago, 1902.

A work of this character seems to have been needed. The peculiar lack of uniformity in the legislation of the different states upon matters concerning the homestead, the diversity among the decisions even where there are similarities in legislation and the frequency with which nice questions relating to the subject present themselves in practice, justify the critical examination of homestead law in each state apart from its consideration in general.

The course of legislation upon the homestead exemption has been such in Illinois that without a careful and detailed examination of the several statutes and the decisions passing upon them one cannot well appreciate their effects. It is therefore especially desirable to treat Illinois homestead law by itself.

This work appears to be the first in which the homestead cases in that state have been analyzed with the purpose of discovering correct principles and with the aim of ascertaining the weight to be accorded to judicial expressions which are in apparent or real conflict with one another. In this volume the several homestead acts are first set forth in parallel columns with references under each phrase of the acts to later portions of the work where the deci-